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CONSUMER PROTECTION
ENERGY AND AIR QUALITY
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AND THE INTERNET**



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17 MAR 2010 RCVD

February 26, 2010

Chairman Julius Genachowski
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street, SW, Room 8-C445
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Wireless Microphones and 700 MHz

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

I write regarding the clearance of the 700 MHz band of spectrum and how such clearance could potentially impact professional enterprises that use wireless microphones in California's 45th congressional district. When developing spectrum policy and crafting relevant legislation, it has been my position to lead with facts and trust that the Federal Communications Commission ('Commission') and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration ('NTIA') to do the same and make wise choices that serve the American people.

Recently, I have heard from theatre owners and churches about the potential impact, both economic and logistic, that will result from the forthcoming clearance of the 700 MHz band of spectrum. The fact that these enterprises will have to purchase new equipment to move to other spectrum bands, especially during this economic downturn, is of significant concern to me. I am perplexed as to how the Commission expects these professional enterprises to operate if they are unable to afford new wireless microphone equipment? Economic obstacles such as this must be given adequate consideration.

I appreciate the value and necessity of maximizing spectrum use for public safety and wireless broadband. These services are critical to saving lives and making our communities better places to live. However, I also believe that the Commission should do what it can under the law to closely guard the rights of consumers who have purchased wireless microphones from manufacturers. The Commission should ensure that the consumers of such equipment have been fully informed by manufacturers, dealers or distributors.

The potential of wireless technologies, both licensed and unlicensed, present incredible opportunities for my California district and the country as a whole. However, even with these incredible new opportunities taken into account I do believe we should work with


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professional enterprises that are currently operating in the 700 MHz with wireless microphone technology to allow them to continue to operate with their existing technology or explore ways to mitigate any adverse economic impact on them.

I look forward to your response to this letter, as the effects to southern California and the rest of the country are significant if not thoughtfully addresses and considered.

Respectfully,



MARY BONO MACK
Member of Congress



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

May 12, 2010

The Honorable Mary Bono Mack
U.S. House of Representatives
104 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Bono Mack:

Thank you for your letter expressing concerns regarding the potential effect of the Commission's decision to clear wireless microphones from the 700 MHz Band on a range of enterprises like churches and theaters.

After lengthy consideration of the substantial record developed in this proceeding, the Commission issued an *Order* on January 15, 2010, requiring all wireless microphone users to exit the 700 MHz Band by June 12, 2010. The Commission took this necessary and essential action to prevent interference to public safety first responders who rely on the 700 MHz Band for mission-critical communications, and to facilitate the build-out of 4G wireless networks by wireless licensees.

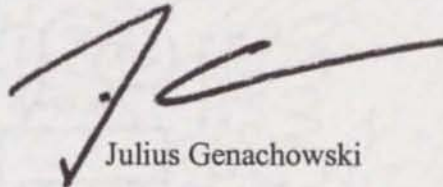
The Commission did recognize the need for, and the significance of wireless microphones in providing quality audio technology for performances and programs in theaters, classrooms, houses of worship, and other venues. Prior to the release of the *Order*, the vast majority of wireless microphone devices were not authorized for operation. The *Order* provides wireless microphone users with authority to operate their equipment on TV spectrum on an unlicensed basis in the core TV bands (channels 2-51, excluding channel 37) indefinitely, and in the 700 MHz Band until June 12, 2010.

In the *Order*, the Commission also adopted a number of safeguards to ensure that users understand their rights and obligations when operating wireless microphones. The *Order* requires manufacturers and retailers of wireless microphones to provide clear notice to consumers about the basic terms and conditions under which they may use wireless microphones. The *Order* also urged all manufacturers to extend or establish rebate and trade-in programs for 700 MHz Band wireless microphones, and to publicize these programs widely, both directly and through their dealers and distributors. In order to ensure that existing microphone users are aware of the June 12 deadline and their role in the transition, the Commission implemented a major consumer outreach campaign by posting information on its website and by making information available from the Commission's call center. As part of the January *Order*, the Commission also sought comment on proposed permanent rules to authorize the use of wireless microphones in the core TV bands.

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I appreciate your interest in this very important matter. We will place a copy of your letter in the record for this proceeding. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, consisting of a stylized 'J' followed by a horizontal line and a small flourish.

Julius Genachowski